we engage

·Tech.News·

Friday, December 19, 2008

Speak Out - Alberta Student Engagement Initiative

Vol. 8 No. 5

Alberta Education's Speak Out student engagement initiative is encouraging Alberta youth from diverse backgrounds and experiences to share their perspectives on the education system. The Speak Out initiative's interactive website, www.speakout.alberta.ca, allows Alberta's youth to share their thoughts, opinions and experiences with peers and with Alberta Education. Each month, program areas from Alberta Education have a featured discussion to better understand students' perspective and ideas on a particular issue.

January's featured discussion is on technology. Students are encouraged to visit the website and answer survey questions about their use of technology.

For further information, contact Jennifer Keller at Jennifer.Keller@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-422-0390.

LINKS:

Alberta Education website – Technology section

LearnAlberta.ca website

Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning initiative website

Technology and High School Success initiative website

Speak Out Student Engagement Initiative website

Leading for Today's Learners

LEADING FOR TODAY'S LEARNERS: PART 2

Improving instructional practices and performances through classroom observations and conferences

Today's 21st century learning leaders are focused on improving student and teacher learning. Richard Elmore of Harvard Graduate School of Education states, "education leaders must focus their efforts on instruction if they are to thrive and survive in the current conditions." One of the ways that principals focus their attention and efforts on improving instructional practice and performance is classroom observation and conferencing. This two-day workshop will build on the work started by the group of learning leaders that attended last years' *Leading for Today's Learners* workshops.

In this year's workshops leaders will have the opportunity to collaborate with other principals to:

> Develop clear images of effective 21st century instructional practices;
> Design effective strategies for providing teachers with timely, constructive feedback through an instructional conference;
> Practice conducting observations and conferences (between the two sessions);
> Document teacher and student learning (between the two sessions); and
> Analyze collected evidence to identify emerging patterns and trends.

EDMONTON
Dates: January 21, 2009 and March 11, 2009
Place: Radisson Hotel Edmonton South, Gateway Blvd.
Registration Deadline: January 12, 2009

GRANDE PRAIRIE
Dates: January 22, 2009 and March 12, 2009
Place: Grande Prairie Inn
Registration Deadline: January 12, 2009

CALGARY
Dates: January 26, 2009 and March 16, 2009
Place: TBD
Registration Deadline: January 12, 2009

To register:
-        Email galileo@ucalgary.ca, OR
-        Phone Stacy Jackson at 403-220-8942

Videoconferencing Update

Adora Svitak (http://www.adorasvitak.com/) is an eleven year old internationally published author, poet, and technology teacher.

To learn more about a videoconference content provider in the area of language arts, gifted and talented, and character education, teachers, administrators, and/or curriculum coordinators are invited to take part as 11 year-old Adora Svitak demonstrates this VC content provider programming.

Audience:	K-12 Teachers, Administrators, Curriculum Coordinators
Presentation Topic:	Demonstrating videoconference content provider programs which focus on best practice, character education, foreign/world languages, gifted and talented, language arts/English, reading and writing.
Session Date:	Monday, January 19, 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Registration Contact:	Monday, January 12, 4:00 p.m.
Cost:	Free!

To register, email Audra Franklin at Audra@2Learn.ca with the following information:

- Name of lead contact
- School or location of lead contact
- Jurisdiction
- Email address of lead contact
- Telephone number of lead contact
- Number of people attending from your site

Audra will respond via e-mail with registration status and, if successfully registered, provide the dial string for attending this session. For inquiries regarding this session, please contact Danny Maas at Danny@2Learn.ca.

LearnAlberta.ca Website Official Launch

The LearnAlberta website (new LearnAlberta.ca) is complete and will move from limited availability to full working status on January 16, 2009. The new site incorporates digital learning and teaching resources, implementation supports, and distributed learning courses. Previous versions of LearnAlberta.ca and the Online Guide to Implementation will no longer be available after January 16, 2009.

The supports previously available through the Online Guide to Implementation can be accessed on the LearnAlberta site through links embedded within the applicable program of studies, or by using the search function. Users who have created

links to resources found in the former Online Guide to Implementation will automatically be redirected to the same resources on the new website.

Distributed learning courses available through the Tools4Teachers website are available to authorized users who have created a personal teacher account. A full list of all available distributed learning courses can be found by searching the keyword *T4T* on the homepage after signing in. Search results can also be limited by grade level and subject area.

Teachers in Alberta who hold an active and valid professional certificate can create a personal teacher account by selecting the "*Sign Up*" link at the top right-hand corner of the homepage. To complete the sign up process, teachers need a jurisdictional username and password for LearnAlberta, a professional certificate number, and access to an e-mail account.

In addition to providing access to Tools4Teachers distributed learning courses, a personal teacher account also gives increased functionality within the *My Workspace* feature of the website. Teacher account holders can organize resources by saving them to *My Workspace*, adding their own web-based resources, creating folders, adding notes and publishing lists of resources using either e-mail or a web link.

Feedback and suggestions on the new website and its content can be submitted using the *Contact Us* link on the website.

Quicktime Tips and Hints

Quicktime Tips and Hints for School Authority Technicians

The following tips and hints have been prepared to help school authority technicians install and use Quicktime effectively with LearnAlberta.ca.

Installation

Quicktime can be installed in a variety of ways. Packages for silent installs and custom settings are possible. The www.AppDeploy.com site is a very good resource for information on how to get things working.

The key to standardized settings within Quicktime is the quicktime.qtp file. This file contains all the settings for the Quicktime player and plugin. It is created when the application is installed and is updated whenever a change is made to the user settings. For use with www.LearnAlberta.ca and new.LearnAlberta.ca, the following settings are recommended.

In the Advanced Tab, select Transport Setup and change it to Custom from Automatic.

In the Streaming Transport Box, make sure the Transport Protocol is "HTTP" and the Port ID is "80". It is important to leave the Port ID set at 80. This will allow Quicktime to function properly with sites other than LearnAlberta.ca. LearnAlberta.ca specifically sets the port to 7070 when the client is redirected to a CDD, so leaving the default set to 80 will allow other requests to function correctly.

Select OK and OK again to save the settings.

Once these settings are made and saved, the Quicktime.qtp file is ready for distribution. If Login scripts are used in the district the .qtp file can be replaced with every login to keep the settings consistent. Two scripts that can be used are:

For XP clients

"%userprofile%\Local Settings\Application Data\Apple Computer\QuickTime\"

For Vista clients

"%userprofile%\appdata\LocalLow\Apple Computer\QuickTime\"

For Mac OS X Clients

Users/%username%/Library/Preferences/QuickTime Preferences

Additional Information

More detailed information on using the Login scripts method is available from the AppsDeploy.com site, at
http://www.appdeploy.com/messageboards/tm.asp?m=36411%20

The Quicktime section on AppDeploy.com is available at http://www.appdeploy.com/packages/detail.asp?id=520.

Technology and High School Success Update

In May 2008, Alberta Education issued a Call for Proposals to Alberta post-secondary institutions to design and conduct research in conjunction with the Technology and High School Success initiative. A research grant was awarded to a team from the University of Alberta in partnership with the University of Calgary and the Galileo Educational Network Association. The researchers will use a mixed method case study approach to address a number of research questions related to effective uses of technology to improve student engagement and success in high school.

For further information, contact Brad Clarke, Project Manager, at Bradley.Clarke@gov.ab.ca, by phone 780-427-0246. The Technology and High School Success website is available at http://education.alberta.ca/admin/technology/techsuccess.aspx.

Tech.News - New Format

In September 2008, Tech.News changed format. To comment on the new format, or ask questions about Tech.News, e-mail tech.news@gov.ab.ca.

Tech.News keeps over 900 subscribers informed about school technology news in Alberta. To forward this newsletter use the "Send this to a friend" button. This will not automatically add the recipient to the mailing list; new subscriptions are added when the "Subscribe" link at the bottom of the page is used.

>> http://education.alberta.ca/admin/technology/research/technews.aspx

Upcoming Events

Emerge One-to-One Community of Practice

This event is a requirement of Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning Project participants.
· May 5 and 6, 2009 at Mount Royal College in Calgary

Jurisdiction Technology Contact (JTC) Event

Registration for JTC events is open to Jurisdiction Technology Contacts only.
· May 13, 2009 in Edmonton.

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